

CABLE TELEVISION COMMISSION
December 3, 2014
City Hall, 2nd Floor Lower Level
7:00 PM

Committee Members in Attendance:

Mr. Tom Davis, Commission Chairman
Jim Sauer, Commission Member
Ms. Janice Hopkins, Commission Member
Mr. Normand Bernache, Commission Member

Attendees:

Ms. Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney
Mr. Bill Gardiner, Assistant City Manager
Ms. Karen Handy, Verizon Representative
Ms. Carmen Bailey-Brown, Comcast Representative
Ms. Denise Palmer, Contract Secretary

Chairman Davis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Adopt minutes from the August 19, 2014 Special Session and the October 22, 2014 Meeting

Ms. Hopkins made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected from the August 19, 2014 Special Session. Mr. Sauer seconded the motion and the motion was unanimous.

Mr. Bernache made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 22, 2014 meeting. Chairman Davis seconded the motion and the motion was unanimous.

2. Update by City Attorney – renewal of franchise with Comcast and Comcast/Time Warner Merger

Chairman Davis rearranged the order of the agenda in order for the representatives from Comcast and Verizon to give their updates first and return to the update by Ms. Ferguson after their updates and review of monthly/quarterly reports.

Ms. Ferguson updated the Commission on the ongoing negotiations and meetings on the Franchise Agreement. She indicated that TimeWarner has extended the comment date deadline to January, 2015. They have had a couple of all-day meetings and have made some progress on some items. She reported that Comcast/Time Warner's intent was to probably conclude negotiations with Montgomery County first and then the District of Columbia.

3. Possible Update from Comcast and Verizon

a. Review Monthly/Quarterly Reports

Ms. Handy from Verizon introduced herself and asked if she can answer any questions on the Verizon report. The Commission members had questions on the information contained under “quarterly subscriber penetration” which refers to College Park. She reported that the “average hold time” refers to seconds. On the Annual Report, the service information pertains to only College Park. The outages referred to are for College Park but it depends on “where the outages are coming from.” She will look into all concerns and report back to the Commission.

Ms. Handy will send a location of Verizon stores to Ms. McCaslin in the Clerk’s office which will list locations where you can swap out equipment. This information may be helpful to customers who may wish to walk into locations as opposed to mailing products.

Ms. Bailey-Brown gave her report on Comcast and referred to the last meeting with Mr. Stumpff who had a question on the drop wires. The wires were identified as Verizon telephone lines. If there is a problem or issue of dropped wires, Comcast can come out to secure the wires so that they do not cause a hazard to public safety. Ms. Bailey-Brown reported that Comcast customers can call and report the issue and it will be addressed.

Mr. Sauer had a question on the total number of homes “passed” by Comcast. Ms. Bailey-Brown reported that the numbers refer to units, apartments, and dorms and that “passed” refers to the units. She reported that Comcast is the only service provided in the dorms.

4. Review any Customer Complaints

Mr. Sauer reported there was a complaint concerning Comcast and the commission agreed that it was resolved.

5. Other business or announcements

There were none to report.

6. Schedule Next Meeting

Ms. Ferguson suggested that the Commission meet again on January 14, 2015 prior to the January 22, 2015 meeting on the Franchise negotiations. She suggested that everyone hold the date. The meeting will be at City Hall at 7:00 p.m. The next due date will be in February, 2015 with additional information to follow.

Ms. Hopkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Davis seconded the motion and it was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Denise M. Palmer, Contract Secretary

